

the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

December 2007/January 2008

Season's Greetings



the Roadrunner

Published every two months by the
Nebraska Department of Roads
 Communication Division
 1500 Highway 2
 PO Box 94759
 Lincoln NE 68509-4759
 (402)479-4512
www.nebraskatransportation.org

Governor Dave Heineman

Highway Commission

Duane Acklie	Doug Leafgreen
Dick Reiser	Ronald Books
John Kingsbury	Greg Wolford
Donna Wanitschke	Jerome Fagerland

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 Deputy Director.....Monty Fredrickson
 Deputy Director.....John Jacobsen
 Legal Counsel.....Jeff Schroeder

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BridgeLyman Freemon
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 Roadway Design.....James Knott
 Traffic EngineeringDan Waddle

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 District 4Wesley Wahlgren
 District 5.....Craig Lind
 District 6.....Gary Thayer
 District 7Kurt Vosburg
 District 8.....Mark Kovar

EditorLinda M. Wilson
 Type & LayoutDiane German
 Printing.....D.A.S.

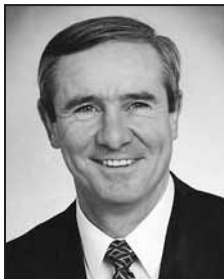
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The information in this newsletter is contributed
 by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



From the Director

Another Great Year or at a Crossroad?



John L. Craig

The answer to the question in the title is both. 2007 has been another great year and we as a state and a nation are at a crossroad.

This past year has seen many adjustments and changes. We have revised our needs criteria and standards for roads to align with those of AASHTO (a result of our Systems Preservative Optimization Team - SPOT) and we are in the process of completing a revision of our methodology for allocating funds for system preservation and for how we prioritize capital improvements (being developed by our Funding Distribution Team - FDT). We have chartered a team to make recommendations on how we can better manage our equipment fleet. Our Business Technology Support Division is maturing in an effort to provide the best "IT" support possible to the department. There are also a myriad of other challenges and successes.

Regardless, we are at a crossroad as we endeavor to spend public tax dollars as wisely as possible in an environment of declining revenues, smaller programs and exacerbated by increasing inflation. So, what should we focus on in 2008? First and foremost, stay focused on our mission and our state Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) goals of safety, mobility and environmental stewardship and improving our Corporate Performance Measures. They track our progress toward meeting and exceeding these goals. As such, I will undertake a review to ensure the soundness and linkage between our mission statement, long-range transportation plan and our performance measures. I also want to ensure that we are visibly accountable for our programs and projects through appropriate "branding" as an agency of state government.

People - It is all about people, but if you can't measure it, you can't manage it; however, it is still all about people. This is the truth of human society. Our people and, by extension, our partners are our most important resource. Leadership and skill development - I put a premium on leadership since it is all about people. I want to further develop our leadership through challenges, experiences, training, and opportunities. Renewed focus on our succession planning program is key to this. We must also develop the best skilled workforce possible at all levels. I also want to support our individual and collective "wellness" as follows:

- **Physical** - Improve health, prevent disease, and work toward lowering health care costs. Literally, and figuratively, if you have your health, you have everything. As a part of this, I want to continue to improve the safety of our employees and partners.
- **Mental** - This is primarily the arena of education, workforce, talent, innovation, problem-solving, and feeling good that we are doing meaningful work - the human mind. We have a vested interest with our partners, external and internal, in this effort. Our recognition program is a key part of this for our own employees and our partners.

See **Crossroad** on next page

● **Financial** – This is a vital component of each individual's overall collective wellness. Providing education, training and planning tools on financial health, offered both through the state's benefit programs and other avenues, can help individuals achieve their short- and long-term goals to ensure their financial health.

So, what also needs to be done? I will address that question relative to each one of our long-range transportation plan goals.

Safety – First, the "collective we" have done a good job over the years of reducing public fatalities, injuries and crashes. I am especially proud of the department, our contractors and State Patrol in reducing work zone crashes by over 65 percent in the past nine years, and accomplishing this during a time when our program, projects and exposure were the highest ever. This is a remarkable achievement for which you should be justifiably proud.

As priority number one in the LRTP, we have established, in conjunction with our partners, a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) with a goal of reducing fatalities to 1.0 per one hundred million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT) by 2011 (revised from 2008). I am committed to three areas in 2008 to help us meet the SHSP goal. First, to develop sub-goals perhaps by Districts, State Patrol Troops or Counties. Second, to fully develop an automated crash (accident) reporting system so that law enforcement at all levels and other parties can use this technology when they are ready. In turn, this real and near-real time feedback should assist in accomplishing sub-goals. Third, I want to visibly recognize those teams and partners that have met or exceeded their sub-goals and have made a substantial contribution toward meeting the SHSP goal of 1.0 fatalities per 100 MVMT by 2011. Remember, the best way to lose good behavior and performance is to ignore it. And the corollary is, the best way to get good behavior and performance is to recognize it.

Mobility – This, and the infrastructure required, has historically been our "bread and butter" whether measured by time or money invested. Of the three LRTP goals under mobility (build, preserve, operate), our first priority is to preserve the \$7 billion asset of roads in which Nebraskans have invested. Our chartered SPOT and FDT, as previously mentioned, have been central to this effort.

In addition, we have expanded our involvement in the real and near-real time management of the highway system through our Operations Centers and in conjunction with our partners – operations. This effort is to maximize the capacity of our existing infrastructure and is second only to the importance of system preservation. Our evolving District Operations Centers are a significant contribution toward making this happen. System preservation and operations are thus key efforts in spending taxpayer dollars as wisely as possible to get the most capacity out of existing infrastructure.

I am committed to three initiatives to improve this overall mobility goal. First, to implement our revised funding allocation and prioritization methodology. Second, to charter a team focused on improving and sustaining maintenance and construction management and inspection. Outstanding people skills, coupled with technical skills, are central to this and to being good partners. Third, to recognize teams and partners for outstanding performance.

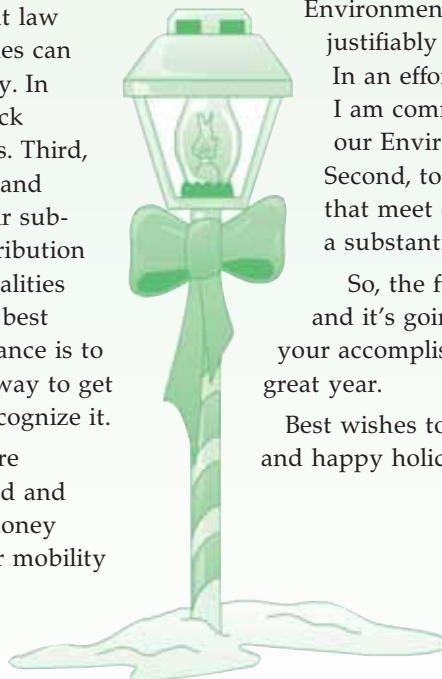
Environmental Stewardship – This arena has increased dramatically in recent years, both in time and money expended. As we develop the manmade environment, we have begun to balance that with equal attention to the natural environment. In the main, our mission is to sustain the balance between the natural and manmade environments –

Environmental Stewardship. You should be justifiably proud of just how far we have come.

In an effort to further improve in this area, I am committed to two goals. First, to complete our Environmental Management System. Second, to provide visible recognition to those that meet or exceed established goals or make a substantial contribution toward that end.

So, the future will be what we make it and it's going to be great. Take pride in your accomplishments and prepare for another great year.

Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season!





Photos by Jason Nichols, District 6

(Above) After - The new Highway 61 viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, just north of Lake McConaughy's Kingsley Dam, opened to traffic in September.

(Right) Before - The at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossing on Nebraska Highway 61 carries 65 trains a day.



Lake McConaughy Viaduct Increases Safety, Decreases Delays

Work has been completed on the new Highway 61 viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, just north of Lake McConaughy's Kingsley Dam, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads' Project Manager Rich Morrell.

Work began in September 2006 with construction of the detour. Work on the new viaduct began in December 2006 with driving of the piles and construction of the Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls. The new viaduct was completed and opened to traffic in September of this year. It replaces an at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossing on Highway 61 and eliminates a 55-mile detour around the west end of the lake when this crossing is closed for repairs or replacement.

"The new viaduct will make it much safer for the traveling public in and

around the lake area," according to Morrell. He noted that the businesses in the area were generally supportive of the new viaduct.

Local emergency response crews will also appreciate the bridge during the busy summer season. There are approximately 65 trains per day that pass through this intersection, which could have caused life-threatening delays.

The new viaduct is a single span, precast, prestressed concrete bridge superstructure 144 feet, 6 inches in length. The surfacing is 9-inch doweled concrete on a 4-inch bituminous foundation course, 6-inch concrete shoulders with integral curbs and guard rail. The longer span allows for the possible installation of a third set of tracks at that location.

New lighting was installed at the intersection of Nebraska Highways 61

and 92. Other work on this project included a new concrete intersection, shoulder work, new driveways, and placement of flumes and other erosion control items.

The new viaduct was designed by TranSystems Corporation of Omaha. Thomas Kellogg was in charge of the overall design work for TranSystems. Tony Kessler and Wahed Hassani, both of the Roadway Design Division, were the consultant coordinators for the department on this project. Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad was the prime contractor, and David Neill was Paulsen's project superintendent. Jim Shea provided the daily supervision for Paulsen on the project. District 6 field inspection personnel for the Department of Roads included Jason Nichols, lead inspector; Cameron Craig, bridge inspector; Doug Gertsch and Darrell O'Neal, inspectors. ♦

Three Highway Commissioners Reappointed

Three Nebraska State Highway Commission members have been reappointed by Governor Heineman. Richard S. Reiser, Ronald W. Books and Jerome A. Fagerland each will serve another six-year term on the State Highway Commission.

Richard S. Reiser from District 2, resides in Omaha with his wife, Mary Lynn, and is legal counsel for Werner Trucking Company. He was initially appointed to the Highway Commission in 2001 by then Governor Mike Johanns. District 2 includes Cass, Douglas, Dodge, Sarpy and Washington counties. In addition to his duties on the Highway Commission, Reiser was recently elected to serve as chairman of the Nebraska Truckers Association for the upcoming year.

Ronald W. Books resides in District 6, North Platte, with his wife, Lois, and owns his own collection agency in North Platte and Kearney. He was initially appointed in 1995 by then Governor Ben Nelson and reappointed in 2001 by then Governor Johanns. District 6 includes Arthur, Blaine,



Ronald W. Books

Custer, Dawson, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson and Thomas counties.

Jerome A. Fagerland selected from District 8, resides in Atkinson with his wife, Cheryl, and is president of the Nedak Ethanol Plant in Atkinson. He was initially appointed by then Governor Johanns to fill a vacancy on the Commission created by the death of George "Shorty" Miles. Governor Johanns reappointed Commissioner Fagerland in 2001 for a six-year term. District 8 includes Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Garfield, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock and Wheeler counties.



Jerome A. Fagerland



Richard S. Reiser

The Nebraska State Highway Commission is composed of eight members, each from one of the eight NDOR field districts. They are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, with approval of the Legislature. The Commission, which serves in an advisory capacity, normally holds meetings the fourth Friday of each month (generally at Central Headquarters in Lincoln). At these meetings, and various other hearings on proposed projects, the Commission serves as a channel for citizens to voice their input concerning the state highway and transportation systems. ♦

Safety Summit Focuses on Critical Emphasis Areas

By Bobbi Olson
Traffic Engineering Division

Over 150 people attended the 2007 Nebraska Highway Safety Summit on October 4, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Lincoln. This was the fifth highway safety summit that NDOR has hosted. The theme of the summit was "Implementing the Nebraska Strategic Highway Safety Plan." The agenda focused on the five Critical Emphasis Areas identified in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan - occupant restraint, impaired driving, younger drivers, intersection crashes and lane departure crashes.

The summit opened with two speakers giving personal accounts of family members injured or killed in highway crashes. A third speaker spoke on her experience as a young driver responsible for a highway fatality. The remainder of the day was

divided into sessions covering each of the five Critical Emphasis Areas. Panels of speakers highlighted their current highway safety activities and programs as ideas in these areas. The goal of the summit was for attendees to leave the conference with information and motivation to implement some of these activities in their own communities.

The luncheon speaker was Karen Williams with the Williams Group of Denison, Texas. Ms. Williams spoke on the developmental readiness of teens to take to the road. Her presentation was based on the research of leading neuroscientists in the field of adolescent brain studies.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration presented Nebraska State Senator John N. Harms with a "Safety Champion Award." In 2006, Senator Harms was instrumental in

the passage of LB415, which put into effect a stronger graduated driver's license program in Nebraska. Later in the day, Mike Hybl, former lobbyist now Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, talked to attendees about how they could get involved in the legislative process to expand highway safety efforts.

The Nebraska Department of Roads introduced the Highway Safety Improvement Flex Funding Program. This program will provide \$2 million in federal funding for safety activities addressing at least one Critical Emphasis Area and supported by crash data for their potential to reduce fatalities and injuries. The Flex Funding Program will be administered similar to the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles/Office of Highway Safety's mini-grant program. ♦

Let's Talk Winter Roadway Safety



The Nebraska Department of Roads hopes that you, your loved ones, and our snowplow drivers will all stay safe for this winter's driving season.

To help remind motorists how important it is to be prepared and to drive according to the conditions, the State Roads Department is focusing on the new nationwide winter driving slogan ...*"Ice & Snow — Take It Slow."*

There are so many things a driver should know and focus on when it comes to ensuring motorist and passenger safety during winter conditions. There are seasonal words like winter storm watch, winter storm warnings, blowing and drifting snow advisory, black ice, and snow cloud that are used to describe the various conditions. These terms and many other helpful winter driving safety reminders can be found at <http://www.dor.state.ne.us/rca/wz/winter-page.htm>.

Don't take chances ... know before you go! In Nebraska and several surrounding states, you can dial 511 free, year-round, day or night for travel condition information. Primarily timely weather reporting for specific travel areas, the 511 Nebraska Travel Information line also has neighboring states' reports available at this number. If you are outside of the state and wish to check on Nebraska's current conditions, dial 800-906-9069.

State Highway Operations and Maintenance personnel will be ready to tackle winter weather challenges across the state. Although crews are well prepared, they are not magicians. Motorists should watch for dispatched snowplows when snow has fallen and winds are calm enough for the operators to see. It is unlawful to follow a snowplow more closely than 100 feet when it is plowing snow, spreading salt or sand or displaying a flashing amber or blue light. Drive with your lights on so you can see and be seen and do not attempt to pass a plow until the plow reaches a clear area. Snowplows usually leave a ridge of snow, and swirling snow can add to the hazards of passing or following too closely.

Since winter in Nebraska is bound to be full of surprises, snow and slippery slopes, the Nebraska Department of Roads urges motorists to make sure everyone in their vehicle is wearing a safety belt. Don't take chances! Ice and snow means take it slow. ♦

Two Top Topics

According to the Nebraska Department of Roads, two issues stressed by winter operations personnel and responding agencies during area-wide planning meetings were:

First – urging motorists not to use cruise control during winter weather. The use of a vehicle's cruise control while weather conditions are changing can be very hazardous. A driver not being in control, traveling too fast for conditions and the quick speed adjustments when turning cruise control on or off can easily send a vehicle out-of-control if temperature and moisture conditions are right.

Second – towing and retrieval efforts are another consideration when choosing to travel during inclement winter weather conditions. Some highways and the Interstate are very busy transportation arteries and can become a risk for those performing automobile or truck retrieval. Law enforcement officials and some towing operators will follow the practice of "Unless vehicles are in the traveled way or a hazard, vehicles will not be retrieved until after the storm is over, or when possible during a closure."

The Department of Roads, responding State Patrol officers, county sheriffs' personnel, local police, towing companies, the Red Cross, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and others want to get the word out that in order to save lives this winter, think twice: (1) When it's snowing, should you go? and (2) If you must go, ice and snow means take it slow!



Employee Recognition Ceremony

“Inspires Leadership”

By Diane Holthus & Nikki Krause
Human Resources Division

The Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony was held at the Grand Island I-80 Holiday Inn on October 25.

NDOR employees recognized at the ceremony were selected from Collaboration, Team Recognition, Good Samaritan Recognition, Emergency Public Assistance and the NDOR Snow Rodeo.

Two teams received the “**Collaboration**” recognition. Collaboration is the process in which three or more people interact with each other to achieve an interdependent goal.

The “**In Wayne**” Project was collaboration between NDOR, the City of Wayne and two business coalitions, Main Street Wayne and Team #15. These groups worked closely together to provide the City of Wayne with the best possible urban project. Members of the team included Scott Brummond, District 3; William Eberspacher and Ernie Voss, Roadway Design.

The **Clarity Implementation Project Team** implemented Clarity Project Management software and exemplified a “spirit of cooperation” that crossed state agency boundaries, spanned NDOR divisions and included vendor consultants. Team members included Francis “Skip” Philson, Lou Anne Daugherty, Brandie Neemann, Dorothy Abendroth, Mark Schultz, Jerry Shriver, Andy Weekly, Matt Neemann and Lee Kohrs.

Two teams were honored with “**Team**” Recognition. Team Recognition recognizes teams that have completed any project of merit in a safe, efficient, effective, and quality manner that exceeds the normal requirements of their job.

The \$1.6 million project located in the center of Columbus received the “**Construction Project of Merit**.” The

project was completed under traffic, under contract time allowance and at 98 percent of the planned budget. District 3 Columbus construction crew members included Jim Carney, David Anderson, Gary Schmid, Monty Koch, Troy Shotkoski and Dan Bock.

The “**Maintenance Project of Merit**” was presented to District 4 employees who worked alongside Nebraska Central Railroad employees in reconstructing the railroad crossings on Highway 81 north of Shelby and south of Stromsburg. They did an outstanding job of getting the crossings reconstructed promptly so that the highway could be reopened to the traveling public as soon as possible. District 4 Osceola maintenance crew members included Rick Jones, Melody Richards, Galen Hines, Ronnie Carlson, John Kropatsch, Rance Ostmeyer, Mike Anderson and Steve Ptacek.

“**Good Samaritan**” honorees from Districts 3, 5 and 7 were recognized for demonstrating heroism and bravery in taking action to save a human life. Recipients included William “John” Hansen, District 3; Scott Burry, District 5; Robert Horst and Randy Barnes, District 7.

Honorees for “**Emergency Public Assistance**” who provided service to the public in areas of natural disaster or emergency response situations included Kerry Scott, District 7; and District 3 employees Jerry Fritz, Johnnie Reynolds, Stanley Dryak, David Tramp and Steven Uhing.

Snow Rodeo winners recognized at the ceremony included loader champion Carsten Barger, District 3; loader runner-up Randy Burr, District 5; truck champions Kirk Strong and Jim Karlin, District 2; truck runners-up Jimmy Eisenhauer and Carsten Barger, District 3.

Patt Harper, guest speaker from Lincoln, spoke about “Inspiring

Leadership in All.” As a presenter, consultant and author, Patt shows how humor can help to accomplish more, relieve stress, build strong relationships, improve client satisfaction and get the creative juices flowing all while putting a smile on your face.

A big thanks to all the people involved with making this year’s ceremony a huge success. ♦

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *December 2007 and January 2008*.

30 Years

Jeffrey Crawford, Roadway Design
Daniel Horn, Construction
Susan Kirk, Business Tech. Support
Kathy Nuttelman, Rail & Public Trans.
Lloyd Petersen, District 3
Mark Reber, Operations
Carl Suchsland, District 4
Steven Turnbull, District 1

20 Years

David Dermer, District 5
Donald Kyhn, District 4
Davis Shimek, District 5
Philip TenHulzen, Roadway Design

10 Years

Robert Bryan, District 7
Scott Grosse, District 3
James Grupe, Government Affairs
Justin Huebert, Roadway Design
Alfred Pieper, District 5
Kent Priest, District 6
Noel Salac, District 6
Karen Svoboda, Bus. Tech. Support

Right-of-Way Division Raises Environmental Awareness

By Greg Weinert
Right-of-Way Division

On September 10, NDOR's Right-of-Way Division hosted an environmental awareness forum with speakers Cynthia Veys, NDOR Environmental Section Manager; Ed Kosola, FHWA Realty/Environmental Officer; and Steve Kemp, NDEQ Unit Supervisor.

Cynthia Veys began with an informative PowerPoint presentation on the structure of NDOR's environmental procedures. Ed Kosola followed with a brief history of federal environmental policy development. Steve Kemp spoke on available resource materials relating to environmental research. Following the principal speakers, NDOR Right-of-Way Division Manager Randy Needham joined the panel for an extensive question-and-answer session.

The program, which included a Mexican-themed brunch and environmentally-friendly door prizes, concluded with Right-of-Way employee recognition. Ed Kosola was recognized by Randy Needham with a plaque for his many years of cooperation and endorsement of the NDOR Right-of-Way Division.

The Right-of-Way Division's commitment to environmental topics continued as several division employees attended a four-day workshop September 24-27, hosted by Chapter 78 of the International Right-of-Way Association.

Former Georgia FHWA Officer, Clyde Johnson, taught coursework on the environmental process related to Right-of-Way. Representatives of various area state transportation departments as well as private sector professionals, including railroad and energy companies, attended the courses held in Council Bluff's MidAmerican Energy Center. The classes were coordinated by NDOR Right-of-Way Project Manager Joey Kramer. ♦



Photo by Greg Weinert, Right-of-Way

A panel answers questions during the environmental awareness forum. Panel members include, *l to r*: Cynthia Veys, NDOR Environmental Section Manager; Randy Needham, NDOR Right-of-Way Division Manager; Ed Kosola, FHWA Realty/Environmental Officer; and Steve Kemp, NDEQ Unit Supervisor.

Recommended Reading

*More good books
as recommended by Director John Craig*

"The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell"
by Oren Harari, 2002, 278 pages.

A fascinating read which covers virtually every aspect of current and presumed future leadership. Referred to as "the most respected figure in American public life," the author shares many themes you will find familiar in Powell's leadership including responsibility, mission, performance, high standards, metrics, credibility, integrity, trust, simplicity, flexibility, optimism, being sincere and real, humility, setting the example, humor and having fun. More importantly, that "it is all about people," (my words) of course, leadership is more complex and human-venture than any of these simple words or themes. So, to gain the author's insight into "the leadership secrets of Colin Powell," you must read this book.

"The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing"
by Al Ries and Jack Trout, 1993, 143 pages.

I am not prone to reading books on marketing, but this was a quick and easy read that is packed with lessons. Simply put, there is no real magic to marketing, but there are some simple truths. Among them are: focus (do not try to do too much or be all things to all people); be either a number one or number two in your field; avoid "hype" – take the long view not the short one; and be honest and genuine. Marketing is an idea fought in the mind of the consumer and it takes resources (people and money). Many of the tenets of good leadership and management are present.

"The Lombardi Rules: (26 Lessons from Vince Lombardi, the World's Greatest Coach)"
by Vince Lombardi Jr., 2005, 116 pages.

Vince Lombardi is known for his insatiable desire for winning. An easy read, this book gives a somewhat unique perspective on leadership. Some of the rules include focus on the mission, simplicity, build the team, character, use your strengths, integrity, and balancing pride with humility. A great read filled with value.

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract

As of November 7, 2007

Location
Work Description
Prime Contractor
Project Manager
Contract Bid Amount

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Landscaping - Lndscp
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE
Seeding - Seed
Speciality - Spec

District 1

Beaver Crossing Southeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$548,870.20

Preston North & South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$960,309.99

Swanton Northeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Vanroekel, Kirk (402)483-5466
\$455,080.20

Palmyra Southeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$631,826.87

Dorchester - Milford
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489
\$2,367,706.85

Western North & South
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489
\$2,659,225.87

Diller Northwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489
\$374,347.50

Weeping Water North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$10,894,723.90

Tecumseh North
Bit
Pavers Companies
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$323,168.84

N-63 Interchange
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850
\$9,165,909.38

Main Line EB Br. Waverly Intchg.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850
\$6,135,087.75

Platte River Bridges
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv,
Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Sign, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$45,189,781.90

Lewiston East & West
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$1,272,126.48

Kansas North & Liberty Spur
Bit
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$1,054,092.73

In Pawnee City
Gr, ConPav, Culv
TCW Construction, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$154,362.33

I-180 - 56th St., Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. &
United Contractors Inc. (JV)
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$48,766,667.84

US-77 So. Intchg. to I-180, Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
England, Jim (402)471-0850
\$28,886,121.30

K & L Interchange
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$10,119,343.74

176th St. Bridge, Lincoln
Gr, MSE Wall, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Bit
Hawkins Construction Co.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$2,650,963.64

Lincoln
HQ Bldg. Addition
Cheever Const. Co.
Murrillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$1,282,348.00

Lincoln West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$12,430,182.09

Morse Bluff South Bridge
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$892,971.81

Districtwide, D-1 & D-4
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$223,164.70

Raymond South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$4,816,393.42

District 2

Arlington North
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Dixon Construction Co.
Mooberry, Jon (402)488-2500
\$512,650.35

Blair North Bridge
Gr, Br, Gdrl
MCC, Llc
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292
\$718,892.48

In Blair
ConPav
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292
\$791,866.25

Fremont East Bypass
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$26,555,563.32

Harney St. - 24th St. (EB), Omaha
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$14,628,136.26

Gretna - Q St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$12,569,244.55

In Elkhorn
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$5,327,891.36

In Omaha
Specialty
Chester Bross Const. Co. &
C.B. Equipment, Inc.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$2,731,406.97

72nd St., N-36 to I-680, Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Gdrl, Fence Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$5,273,885.67

Fort St. - 72nd St., Omaha
Spec
Missouri Pavement Maint., Inc.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$130,000.00

Expand I-80 EB & Kennedy SB
one lane & Bridges
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br,
Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$14,986,342.61

N-370/90th St., Papillion
Elec
Commonwealth Electric Co.
of the Midwest
Fox, Mike (402)595-2534
\$29,789.51

Hooper East & West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$22,401,622.91

Arlington East
Spec
Knish Corporation
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$509,869.62

Camera Installation, D-1 & D-2
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$548,217.20

Louisville East
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,396,548.67

Union - Plattsmouth
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,340,700.00

Plattsmouth West
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,407,807.74

US-34/75 & 8th Ave., Plattsmouth
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Lndscp, Elec
Tab Holding Company, Inc.,
dba Tab Construction
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,532,179.63

West Dodge Rd. (WB) Expressway
Bridge 108th - 120th
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Spec,
Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$62,989,885.92

So. Omaha Bridge, Main Br. Truss
Br
Jensen Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$37,574,397.00

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Br. Approach
Br, Elec
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$13,204,975.78

South Omaha Br., Iowa Grading
Gr, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec, Bit
K & L Landscape & Const., Inc.
Tsvid, Aleksandra (402)595-2534
\$3,499,546.34

So. Omaha Br., NE - 13th & Mo. Ave.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Lndscp,
Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchey, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$5,262,446.49

So. Omaha Br., NE Bridge
Approach
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchey, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$12,773,897.12

District 3

Brunswick Northwest
Gr, Culv
A & R Construction Co.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$86,854.57

Clearwater South
Gr, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Mead, Terry (402)371-6416
\$571,179.59

Albion Northeast
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$279,813.90

Columbus Northeast
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$796,202.88

Platte Center Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$351,028.40

Stanton Northeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$300,900.75

Wisner Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$435,454.26

Stanton Southwest
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$319,016.40

Crofton Northwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$409,973.90

Hartington Southwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$528,348.92

Belden South
Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$1,270,833.28

Jackson East
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$4,590,436.36

Newcastle - US-20
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$2,898,722.98

East of Petersburg
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$2,931,753.70

Albion Equipment Storage Facility
Albion Equipment Storage Facility
J. H. Hespe Co., Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$286,643.00

In Wayne
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
A & R Construction Co.
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071
\$2,426,281.58

Wayne North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec
A & R Construction Co.
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071
\$1,658,440.65

Yankton Bridge
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Fence, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Jensen Construction Co.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$23,903,498.78

Norfolk West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$20,299,017.48

Building No. 32501
Neligh Re-roof Project
Radec Construction Co. Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$207,900.00

N-84 to N-12
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$2,995,990.16

Neligh - N-121
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$6,624,518.65

District 4

In Guide Rock
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$432,839.34

In Superior
Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$354,534.85

Fullerton Northeast
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$349,402.96

Sutton South
Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$963,137.65

Alexandria West
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$494,826.80

McCool Jct. Northeast
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$328,374.91

Districtwide, D-4, D-6 & D-7
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$221,334.88

L-50A - 11th St., Kearney
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$2,223,460.62

Elm Creek South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Paulsen, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$7,497,827.44

Odessa Intchg. Bridge
Br
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$110,347.62

York West Bridge
Br
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$227,590.05

Hampton - Henderson (EB)
Bit
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$667,823.71

York North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Const. Co. & Affil.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$18,182,230.53

Bruning East
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$592,344.48

Grafton East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$353,963.64

York - Waco
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$104,617.00

In Aurora
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$1,808,087.83

Clarks - Silver Creek
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$2,531,717.90

Doniphan North
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$2,456,679.21

Shelton Intchg.
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$110,899.70

Odessa Intchg.
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$175,000.30

Ord - Burwell
Gr, Culv, Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$8,121,354.49

Kearney West
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$5,086,203.99

Grant St.-Greenwich St.,
Grand Island
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$4,495,070.38

Locust St. Intchg, Grand Island
Lndscp
Gross Seed Company, Inc.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$137,227.40

Grand Island South (So. Locust St.)
Lndscp
Gross Seed Company, Inc.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$75,151.50

Hastings East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$169,945.33

Clay Center West
Gr, Seed, Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$1,045,443.21

District 5

Lyman East
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Weis, Mark (308)635-1926
\$861,907.20

Fort Robinson State Park
Gr, Culv, Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$2,462,829.43

In Dalton
Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Dye, Don (308)635-1926
\$290,959.07

Bridgeport-Morrill/Garden Co. Line
Gr, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$6,819,011.64

Gering West
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$1,772,755.83

Hemingford West
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$2,778,192.79

Gordon East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,392,783.41

NE/SD Line South (Resurf)
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,184,855.04

Alliance Southwest
Gr
Heggem Construction, Inc.
Hilderbrand, Sylvia (308)262-1920
\$524,688.89

Wyoming - W. Kimball
Gdrl, Bit
Knife River Midwest, LLC
Rhamey, Wayne (308)632-1429
\$4,536,343.01

Gering Maintenance Facility
Maint. Facility
Heggem Construction, Inc.
Rhamey, Wayne (308)632-1429
\$4,294,341.46

Sunol Link
ConPav, Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Johnson, James (308)262-1929
\$190,988.70

Sidney West
Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Johnson, James (308)262-1929
\$295,568.49

Sidney North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Johnson, James (308)262-1929
\$3,389,182.00

Niobrara River So. of Harrison
Gr, Culv
Paul Reed Const. & Supply, Inc.
Jacobs, Maryanne (308)632-1429
\$413,692.05

Harrison East
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Jacobs, Maryanne (308)632-1429
\$4,748,795.34

Automated Gate Closure Project -
Rural
Elec
Mid-Plains Power Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$184,787.45

District 6

Maxwell - Brady
Spec
Missouri Pavement Maint., Inc.
Craig, Cameron (308)535-8031
\$56,852.50

N-61/UPRR Lake McConaughy
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$5,684,098.81

Ogallala - Kingsley Dam
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$680,380.90

Overton Link
Gr, MSE Wall, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$6,365,563.52

Gothenburg South
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$3,846,973.25

Brady South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$9,965,526.75

Districtwide, D-5 & D-6
Spec
Surface Preparation Tech., Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$306,479.00

Broken Bow South
Gr, Culv, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$12,720,608.55

Gothenburg North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$2,195,208.98

Brady - Gothenburg
Spec
Missouri Pavement Maint., Inc.
Pedersen, Troy (308)535-8031
\$34,346.50

Big Springs - Brule
Bit
Highway Improvement, Inc.
Donahey, Allen (308)535-8031
\$104,278.00

District 7

N. Jct. US-136 to N-4
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$3,258,630.79

Jct N-4 to Holdrege
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$1,502,048.47

In Edison
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$66,204.20

Cambridge - Holbrook
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$5,195,002.27

McCook North
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$285,203.28

Brandon - Grant
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$367,342.72

Various Sites in Frontier Co.
Gr, Culv
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$419,585.88

Republican City - Naponee
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$5,424,979.40

In Holdrege
Elec
Kayton Electric, Inc.
Dietz, Mark (308)995-5397
\$14,447.40

Holdrege West
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Dietz, Mark (308)995-5397
\$13,897.20

In Orleans & West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Dietz, Mark (308)995-5397
\$6,475,503.61

Imperial West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$4,349,110.41

District 8

Burwell South
Culv
A & R Construction Co.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$61,123.04

Burwell East
Bit
Brown & Brown, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$366,064.95

Springview North & South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$4,218,606.29

Butte South
Br
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$1,383,415.09

Arabia West
Bit
Fred Carlson Company, LLC
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471
\$2,485,125.22

Merriman South Bridge
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Perrett Construction, Ltd.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$4,898,412.25

Merriman West
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$2,567,010.76

Chambers Jct. South
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Ziska, Dan (402)336-2051
\$5,490,549.91

Districtwide, D-3 & D-8
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Adkisson, Jason (402)387-2471
\$275,711.14

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Landscaping - Lndscp
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE
Seeding - Seed
Specialty - Spec

"Safe Routes Nebraska" One of 22 Programs To Receive National Recognition

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) earned top marks recently from the director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and was praised for their program's success in the fight to combat childhood obesity.

Safe Routes Nebraska is one of only 22 programs to meet the four milestones established for state programs, according to Deb Hubsmith, director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, in written testimony to Congress October 2. She testified on the Safe Routes to School: 2007 State of the States Report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at a hearing on the Federal Safe Routes to School Program Subcommittee on Highways and Transit in Washington, D.C.

The four milestones include hiring a full-time state program coordinator, establishing an advisory committee, releasing application deadlines to local communities and selecting and awarding funding for requested Safe Routes projects.

Chairman Jim L. Oberstar of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure said he is "pleased" with the progress programs such as Safe Routes Nebraska are making to improve children's health safety.

"I've learned that rarely do you get the opportunity to change the habits of an entire generation," Oberstar said in a statement at the hearing. "The Safe Routes to School program is our opportunity. Increased safety, healthier lifestyles, a cleaner environment; in these many ways, we can instill in our children positive habits that will last a lifetime."

NDOR launched Safe Routes Nebraska in October 2006 and announced funds were available.

Within two months, more than 160 intent-to-apply forms were submitted requesting more than \$18 million in funding for community or school programs. In May 2007, after extensive review by the state's advisory committee, NDOR awarded \$2 million for 23 Safe Routes Nebraska projects across the state. More than 80 applicants requested \$8 million in September. NDOR expects to announce award recipients in spring 2008.

"Although funding is limited, the overwhelming response to the program reflects that Nebraskans are committed to improving children's health," said Kelly Morgan, Safe Routes Nebraska Program Coordinator. "We are excited to help communities improve the health of Nebraska's schoolchildren by promoting opportunities to build safer walking and biking routes."

To help potential applicants understand application requirements, Morgan and NDOR held workshops in Gering, Norfolk and Lincoln and met with educators at the Nebraska Council of School Administrators conference in Kearney.

"We wanted to ensure potential applicants understood the process and to provide them the tools to develop complete proposals," Morgan said. "Those areas of the state that didn't receive funding last year received additional outreach."

Morgan said communities can also implement programs that don't require funding. Safe Routes Nebraska provides free resources and educational materials for communities to promote healthier living and safe walking and biking routes. School administrators, community organizations and nonprofit agencies are

encouraged to visit the Safe Routes Nebraska Web site at www.SafeRoutesNE.com to learn more about how to give kids a fun and safe way to incorporate exercise into their daily routines. Resources for download include classroom activities, a rewards program guide, frequent walker and biker cards and brochures.

What's more, Safe Routes Nebraska has developed partnerships with other agencies that are working to improve children's health, including Nebraska

Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Action for Healthy Kids and Keep Kids Alive Drive 25.

"Laying the foundation to change the habits of an entire generation is a community effort. By working together to create an environment that allows children to walk and bike to school safely, we're helping children live happier, healthier lives," Morgan said.

Safe Routes Nebraska is part of the National Safe Routes to School program. Through the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy For Users, known as SAFETEA-LU, Congress designated \$612 million toward developing the National Safe Routes to School program. Money is distributed to the Nebraska Department of Roads to fund education, planning and implementation of Safe Routes to School plans and programs.

For more information about how to apply for Safe Routes Nebraska funding or implementing a program in your community or school, go to www.SafeRoutesNE.com. ♦

"Laying the foundation to change the habits of an entire generation is a community effort."

- Kelly Morgan, Safe Routes Nebraska Program Coordinator



We Get Letters ...

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.



Oct. 8, 2007

Dear Kelly and Safe Routes of Nebraska,

We thank you for the Grade 3 safety newspapers. It was interesting to read them and do the fun activities. Everyone learned we need exercise, good food, and rest to feel our best. Thanks so much!

Mrs. Smith and Grade 3,
Laurel-Concord Public School
Armanda

Garrett
Dakota
Dawson
Cody #21
Trey #7

Y index
thank you for it
K & B
Dalton
Kylie B
Thanks

Ayden #5
Dakota
Kaitlin
Austin & Kellen!!
Madison
See ya!



October 10, 2007

To Dick Soden:

We thank you for the school bus crossing sign! My wife has noted at least two close calls when following the bus in this location and was very concerned it was only a matter of time before someone got hurt.

She also talked to (the mother of the children boarding the bus at that location), and found out the older child ... told her one of the younger ones nearly got hit. This was last month. There are those who don't read signs or obey the STOP sign on the bus, but hopefully the "bus stop ahead" will awaken most drivers. Again, we appreciate the quick response.

Leroy Penlerick
Wayne, Nebraska

Editor's Note: Dick Soden is a Maintenance Superintendent at District 3 in Wayne. Mr. Penlerick notified the District 3 office of his concern and the sign was installed north of Wayne on Highway 15.



September 19, 2007

John Craig, Director,

We would like to thank the NDOR for the overlay on Hwy. 12 between Monowi and Verdel. Many locals and travelers are grateful.

Jane Brewster
Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway
Butte, Nebraska



By Steve Duecker

Highway Environmental Biologist
Planning & Project Development



Good Intentions

The European Starling was introduced into this country over 100 years ago to control insect pests. It is now the most common bird in cities and has also populated the countryside across the continent. This relative of the Myna bird is a cavity nester and is very aggressive. It will commandeer holes and cavities in trees from native bird species like kestrels and bluebirds. Starlings are not exclusively insect eaters and enjoy leftover french fries as well as bugs. I'm sure that importing them seemed like a good idea at the time.

The carp is a popular fish in Europe and was imported to the U.S. as a game fish. The ability of this fish to tolerate high water temperatures and turbidity, combined with an awesome reproductive capacity, allowed it to outcompete a whole host of native fish. It is now found all across the country, and several different non-native carp species have also become established in our waters. A large amount of money is spent each year trying to remove this fish from various water bodies.

Florida has breeding populations of cobras, pythons and boas that have escaped or been released from captivity. Teams of specialists have been hired to capture these critters.

In the plant world, many species have been introduced only to become a problem. The Russian Olive was planted by many wildlife agencies. Birds ate the fruit and quickly spread the seeds. Eastern Red Cedar has also been planted where it did not normally occur and birds spread the seeds. Removal of these two species has become a business in its own right.

In the myriad of invasive plants, one of the nastiest is Common Reed Grass. This plant is something right out of "The Body Snatchers." Apparently it escaped from ornamental plantings and has spread over much of Nebraska. It is found in wet areas and will completely eliminate native plants. It grows 20-foot-long runners that establish roots about every foot. These roots produce a chemical that kills the surrounding plants. This allows the species to spread about 10 to 15 feet a year. We are presently battling this plant in our wetlands.

Many of these introductions were made with the best of intentions. Lessons were learned and the use of native species is considered the best course of action.

New Adopt-a-Highway Signs on Display

Motorists are seeing a different road sign as the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) unveils new signs identifying Nebraska's "Adopt-a-Highway" litter pickup program.

The blue and white signs display a newly designed Adopt-a-Highway logo for Nebraska and the name of the volunteer organization picking up litter in that area. The NDOR is in its 17th year of sponsoring the internationally acclaimed roadside litter pickup program. This successful program allows local individuals and groups to assist the NDOR in keeping Nebraska roadsides free of unsightly litter.

The Dannebrog Area Booster Club, a long-standing, active participant of the Adopt-a-Highway program, was honored as the recipient of the first newly designed recognition sign, at a local ceremony held November 1 in Dannebrog.

Denise Wallman, of NDOR's Operations Division, is the statewide coordinator for the Adopt-a-Highway program. ♦



'Tis the Season... for a Health Plan



You can stay healthy this holiday season with the help of these tips and advice from your health care provider.

- Exercise, even if it's less than usual. Just taking a walk can do a lot for your mental and physical health.
- Place priority on sleep. Everything is more manageable when you are rested. Plan for "winding-down" time of at least 30 minutes before you go to bed.
- Though the holidays are a time for traditions, don't try to do it all. Simplifying your holiday will reduce your stress. Rely on family to help with preparations.
- Remember, too much sugar will rob you of energy rather than give you more.
- Be realistic about your health goals during the holidays. Accept weight maintenance vs. weight loss.
- When it comes to holiday parties, try these strategies: (1) snack before you go; (2) don't skip meals to compensate for a party; (3) eat slowly and savor the flavor; (4) socialize away from the buffet table, bar, or kitchen; (5) take moderate portions of specialty foods you really love; (6) take a dish to pass that you know is healthy; (7) try spritzers or low calorie mixers, and limit use of alcohol.

- Munson Healthcare 2007

NDOR Events Calendar

— December —

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

- 11/1-12/31 Retirement – Change from Defined Contribution to Cash Balance**
Contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580
- 4 New Employee Orientation Program**
*Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870*
- 10 RoadToasters - Holiday Meeting**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*
- 13 Letting**
*1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528*
- 14 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
*10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530*
- 14 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
*2:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436*
- 19 RoadToasters**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*
- 25 State Holiday – Christmas**

— January 2008 —

- 1 State Holiday – New Year's Day**
- 9 RoadToasters**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*
- 15 New Employee Orientation Program**
*Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870*
- 18 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
*9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436*

- 21 State Holiday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 23 RoadToasters**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*
- 25 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
*10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530*
- 31 Letting**
*1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528*

— February 2008 —

- 12 New Employee Orientation Program**
*Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870*
- 13 RoadToasters**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*
- 15 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
*9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436*
- 15 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
*10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530*
- 17-23 National Engineers Week**
www.eweek.org
- 18 State Holiday – Presidents' Day**
- 22 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
*10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436*
- 27 RoadToasters**
*12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735*

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the February/March Roadrunner should be received by January 15.

Nebraska Department of Roads
Communication Division
1500 Hwy 2
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
27-6900

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